



Aerostat Uninterrupted Power Supply OIF SB-032



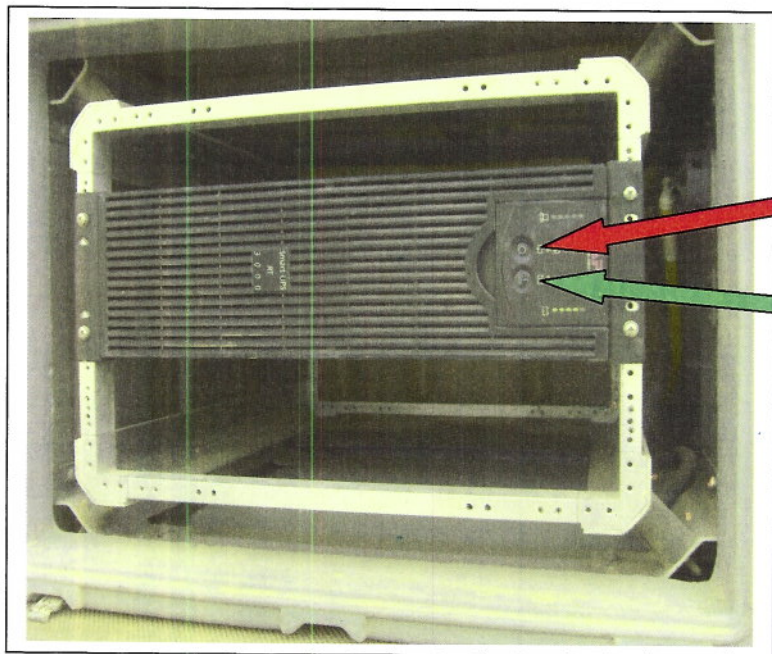
MND-B recently lost a RAID Aerostat Balloon due to human error. The Aerostat operator was performing trouble shooting and maintenance to reset a fault in the system. The steps being conducted were not written down in the operator's manual nor were they part of the certification training when the unit began Aerostat operations. However, these steps were being conducted in conjunction with the Field Service Representative (FSR) via the phone.

The operator was instructed to reset the Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) by the FSR. Although the Soldier had not performed this task before, he assumed it would be fairly self explanatory and a straight forward procedure to complete. As a consequence, the SM turned off the system and thought that he had turned it back on. In fact he was pushing the wrong button and never turned the UPS back on.

The system remained off line for 5 to 10 minutes and resulted in the Aerostat losing its aerodynamic shape. When this situation was finally identified and the UPS turned back on, the Aerostat began erratic flight behavior and was ultimately destroyed.

There are a few lessons to be learned from this accident:

- Never perform a task that you have not been trained on or have not received proper guidance.
- Speak up if you are not sure how to perform a task.
- All efforts must be made immediately to restore power to the Aerostat system if it is lost.
- Instructions and training should be provided at the Unit level on the operation of the UPS: Contact your FSR for guidance.



Button marked [O] is to turn power OFF

Button marked [I/Test] is to turn power ON

UPS is fully operational when it beeps and green light remains illuminated.